

Each entry is extremely detailed. I particularly like the fact that there are no confusing sub-entries, just a straightforward alphabetical organization which helps the reader find the definition straight away. Each entry contains a pronunciation guide and a concisely written definition without the use of unnecessary technical jargon. Most definitions comprise a single sentence, but, where necessary, further explanation is given. Many terms in medicine are used in combination, for example, acute abscess, apical abscess, etc., and each of these phrases is treated as a separate definition within the main entry – abscess in this example.

What differentiates this dictionary from others in the field is that it contains useful appendices which offer comprehensive reference information, including sections on formulae for calculating drug dosages, guidelines for resuscitation, biochemical reference values for blood, urine and faeces (obtained from the *Oxford Textbook of Medicine*, 5th ed. 2005) and immunisation schedules to name a few. There are 17 appendices in total, covering over 40 pages. There are also appendices provided at the end of the section to help with continuing professional development. These again contain a wealth of information: the latest version of the Nursing & Midwifery Council code of professional conduct, a list of degrees and diplomas and a list of health-care websites. In addition, where relevant, end of entry links are provided throughout the dictionary to organisations providing further information, for example, Public Health England and Diabetes UK.

This dictionary is targeted to all nursing students, recently qualified and practising nurses and people training and working in related fields such as midwifery and health visiting. I currently work in a GP surgery, and have found it useful as a quick reference tool when checking patient notes. It is sometimes easier to look for a quick definition in a dictionary, sitting at your desk, than trawling the internet! From a nursing point of view, it would be useful for the handover of patients to check different terminology, although it is rather too big to carry around.

Overall, this is an informative, essential reference text, competitively priced at £9.99. It is an invaluable reference tool for all nursing students and medical professionals.

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Dictionary of Pharmaceutical Medicine
(4th edition)

Gerhard Nahler

Springer/European Center for Pharmaceutical Medicine
 Cham

2017

x + 396 pp.

ISBN 978 3 319 50668 5 (print); ISBN 978 3 319 50669 2 (e-book)

£66.99 \$94.99 (print); £52.99 \$74.99 (e-book)

Keywords Dictionaries, Pharmaceutical products, Medicine, Pharmaceutical medicine

Review DOI [10.1108/RR-06-2017-0132](https://doi.org/10.1108/RR-06-2017-0132)

This is a new edition of this book; the last edition came out in 2013 and was also covered in these columns (*RR* 2014/145), and hence, this shorter review. As the title says it is about pharmaceutical medicine, that is, the science of medical pharmacy. It is not a book about medicines. The need for a new edition is partly driven by the rapidly increasing understanding of the working of the genome. [I have added a reference ([Carey, 2015](#)) to a popular account of some of this field that I recently read]. Another driver is changes in aspects of product quality, safety and supply chain control. There are about 700 new entries which is about a third more than the previous edition. Many of the entries have been rewritten or expanded. There is a glossary of abbreviation and acronyms. The number of entries (about 1,600 items) in the glossary has doubled since the publication of the past edition.

A selection of entries will give some idea of the scope of the book. I was pleased to see that Biobank gets an entry as I have been one of their sample since it started. Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products is one of the many official bodies included. Performance Drugs is a term for erectile dysfunction drugs. This is one of the few drug groups mentioned; I looked for beta blockers and calcium channel, two hypertension products I take, but they were not listed. Intervention Trials is one of many terms to do with drug development and testing. Perussel's Law is one of those joke laws that are a reminder to all of us. Many genetic terms like mRNA are included, reflecting on this major growth area. There are some terms that are applicable to herbal medicine: Botanical Drug Product includes both plant and animal origins and Herbal Drug Products include only plant. Braille is included as there are standards relating to Braille labelling. I hope these examples show

the wide range of this dictionary. The included terms are connected by see references.

Clearly this is a useful book and would suit students of pharmacy. It may also be of use to practicing pharmacists as they keep up with changes in their industry. However, it seems rather expensive compared to some other paperback dictionaries I have reviewed.

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Reference

Carey, N. (2015), *Junk DNA: A Journey through the Dark Matter of the DNA*, Icon Books, London.

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Invasive Plant Species of the World: A Reference Guide to Environmental Weeds (2nd edition)

Ewald Weber

CABI

Wallingford and Boston, MA

2017

xiii + 581 pp.

ISBN 978 1 7806 4386 1 (print); ISBN 9781 7863 9057 8

(ePub)

£195 \$320

Keywords Guides and handbooks, Plants, Botany

Review DOI [10.1108/RR-06-2017-0133](https://doi.org/10.1108/RR-06-2017-0133)

Since the first edition in 2003, 50 plants have been added to the list and 19 have been judged not to be harmful. So the book now has about 500 entries. To be included in this book a plant has to be both alien and invasive. The plants are mainly flowering plants but there are some coniferous trees and two ferns. There are some surprises. *Utricularia gibba* is a carnivorous plant, and these are usually considered at risk. This one is widely distributed but is an invasive alien in New Zealand where it threatens the native carnivorous plants. Another is *Ravenala madagascariensis* which is endemic in Madagascar, and so would be assumed to be at risk, but it is invasive in Mauritius. Because only alien invaders are included it does not mean that there is no information on non-alien invasive plants. The blackberry, *Rubus fruticosus*, is alien in the southern hemisphere, including New Zealand where the joke is that there are only two blackberry bushes in New Zealand – one on North Island and one on South Island. I have seen two gardens (neither in my care) that had been completely overrun by blackberry.

My first target in the book was Japanese Knotweed, *Reynutria japonica*. We have this in a local park where it is under control and on a railway embankment that is in a redevelopment zone and so likely to be disturbed and dispersed. The book describes the regimes of cutting and herbicide use, which is what happened in our park. Breaking news from The Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International, another part of CABI, the publishers of this book, opens the possibility of biological control. Hopefully this will be a success and will be recommended in the next edition.

Each entry has Mercator's World Map coloured to the level of reporting (that is down to the US states and the like). The colouring uses green to indicate where a plant is native or where the status is unclear and, in two shades of red, where it is naturalised and where it is invasive. The maps are easy to use for widely spread species but, for example, with *Ravenalia*, it was not until I had read the text that I spotted the little red dot of Mauritius. At the other end, a couple of species of *Melilotus* are shown as invasive all over Greenland where plants only grow on the southern seacoasts.

For each species there is detail of the family, life form (evergreen tree, perennial herb, etc.), synonyms, uses and common names in English. There is a statement of the ecosystems it invades. Then there is a description of the plant followed by a description of the plant's ecology and impact. The entry ends with details of control measures.

The book is arranged by scientific name, so if you know that it is easy to find the plant. There is a list of synonyms mapped to the preferred name and list of common names which also map to the preferred name. Both these lists are in alphabetical order of approved name, which makes it difficult to use. I would suggest future editions put the synonyms and the common names in alphabetical order. Once you have the approved name you know where it is in the book.

A list of websites used to identify plants to include in the book is provided. There is also a list of field guides and weed books that cover invasive species. The full citations of the references in the text are given in a bibliography. This runs to 58 pages, which is around 1,700 items.

Invasive Plant Species of the World provides plenty of information and will be a useful reference source for those involved in any way with alien invasive plants. As I have suggested with the blackberry, the information can also be of use for non-alien invasive plants. I found it interesting to review this book and I have learnt quite a lot from it.

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